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**From:** Stephen Auten  
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**Date:** 1/26/04 5:56PM  
**Subject:** Claims for Interview on 01-28-04

Please see attached.

Best regards,

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**EXHIBIT A**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

1. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar code~~encoding~~  
symbology comprising:

a medical container~~a substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the  
container~~the substrate~~,

wherein the container defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting  
segments,[[;]]

wherein the spaces defined~~defining~~light-absorbing segments,[[;]]

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments  
define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information,[[;  
and]]

wherein the negative image bar code~~encoding~~symbology is detectable using  
a reader, and~~[[.]]~~

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the  
group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time,  
price, and concentration.

14. (currently amended) A container having a negative image bar code, the container  
~~encoding~~symbology comprising:

a flexible film~~substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the  
film~~substrate~~,

wherein the film defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting segments,

wherein the spaces defined~~defining~~light-absorbing segments,[[;]]

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments  
define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information,[[;]]

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration, and

wherein the negative image bar code~~encoding~~ symbology is detectable using a reader[[; and]]

wherein the substrate comprises a pouch type flexible container.

15. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar code~~encoding~~ symbology comprising:

a medical container~~substrate~~;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container, wherein the medical container defines first spaces that separate the first plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the first spaces define~~~~defining~~ a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container, wherein the medical container defines second spaces that separate the second plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the second spaces define~~~~defining~~ a second set of light-absorbing segments, wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration; and

wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are each~~encoding~~ symbology is detectable using a reader.

16. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar code~~encoding~~ symbology comprising:

a medical container~~substrate defining a portion of the container~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical containersubstrate, wherein the medical container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, and wherein the spaces defineddefining light-absorbing segments;

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information;

wherein the negative image bar code is detectable using a reader; and  
wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration

wherein the container is a medical container.

17. (currently amended) A container comprising:

a flexible filmsubstrate;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the substrate, the spaces defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the flexible filmsubstrate, wherein the flexible film defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces defineddefining a second set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information[[;]], wherein the first bar code and second bar code [[are]] is detectable using a reader[[; and]], and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration

wherein the container is a medical container.

18. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical primary container having a substrate;  
a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container substrate, wherein the medical container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information, and wherein the bar code is detectable using a reader[[;]] and  
a material positioned over a portion of the bar code substrate, wherein the portion has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

19. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical primary container having a substrate;  
a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container substrate, wherein the medical container defines first spaces that separate the first plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the first spaces define defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing fixed information;  
a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container substrate, wherein the medical container defines second spaces that separate the second plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the second spaces define defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information;  
wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are detectable using a reader; and

a material positioned over a portion each bar code of the substrate, wherein each portion has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

20. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical~~primary~~ container having a substrate;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container~~substrate~~, wherein the substrate defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces defined~~defining~~ a first set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing ~~fixed information or~~ variable information;

a material positioned over a portion of the bar code, and~~substrate~~;

~~a second plurality of light reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the material, the spaces defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second bar code representing fixed information or variable information;~~

~~wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are detectable using a reader; and~~

wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182

~~wherein the combination of the first bar code and the second bar code represent fixed information and variable information.~~

21. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a flexible container~~primary~~ container having a substrate;

~~a material positioned over a portion of the substrate;~~

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the flexible container~~material~~, wherein the flexible container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces defined~~defining~~ light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a bar code representing fixed information and variable information, wherein the variable

information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration,[[;]] and wherein the bar code is detectable using a reader[[.]];

a material positioned over a portion of the bar code, wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

22. (currently amended) A container ~~system~~ comprising:

~~a film that defines the container~~~~primary container having substrate;~~

~~a material positioned over a portion of the substrate;~~

~~a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the material, the spaces defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first bar code representing fixed information;~~

~~a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the film~~~~material, wherein the film defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define~~~~defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the bar code can be detected by a reader, and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.[[;]]~~

~~wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are each detectable using a reader.~~

23. (currently amended) A method of transferring a negative image bar code onto a ~~flexible web of material~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a ~~flexible web of material~~;

providing a printer capable of transferring a ~~plurality of light-reflecting segments~~ negative image bar code onto the web in response to a signal representative of the ~~plurality of~~

light-reflecting segments, negative image bar code, the negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information; and

transferring the signal to the printer; and

transferring the plurality of light-reflecting segments negative image bar code onto the web of material, wherein the web defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define a plurality light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code that can be detected by a reader, wherein the negative image bar code represents fixed information and variable information, and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.

25. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a flexible~~primary~~ container having a substrate;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments disposed on the flexible container, wherein the flexible container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration; and~~[[;]]~~

a material positioned over a portion of the negative image bar code, substrate; wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182 container system has a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information, and wherein the negative image bar code is detectable using a reader.

33. (new) A medical container having a bar code comprising:

    a negative image bar code disposed on a medical container,

        wherein the medical container defines at least two spaces in the bar code, the spaces absorbing light,

        wherein the negative image bar code is detectable with a bar code reader,

        wherein the negative image bar code comprises variable information, and

        wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.